



## Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Chatham County Commission Chambers  
124 Bull Street - 2nd Floor  
December 5, 2019 4:00 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

### DECEMBER 5, 2019 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Members Present: Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair  
Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chairman  
Alicia Blakely  
Thomas Gensheimer  
Sean Mannion  
Lisa Watson

MPC Staff Present: Leah Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Ryan Jarles, Cultural Resources Planner  
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

#### I. Call to Order and Welcome

##### [1. Call to Order and Welcome](#)

**Dr. Henry** called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

##### [2. Approve November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes.](#)

[November 7, 2019 Minutes.pdf](#)

##### **Motion**

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

##### **Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### 3. Petition of W Projects LLC | 19-006510-PA | 12 West State Street | Temporary Mural

- 🔗 [19-006510-PA Recommendation.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Maps - 12 West State Street 19-006510-PA.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [AERIAL MAP 19-006510-PA.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Submittal Packet 1 - 12 West State Street 19-006510-PA.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Application - 12 West State Street 19-006510-PA.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Checklist - 12 West State Street 19-006510-PA.pdf](#)

**Ms. Erin Wessling** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Mr. Ryan Jarles** gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for a temporary mural to be installed on the front façade of 12 West State Street. The proposal is for a patterned stencil to be spray painted over the entirety of the front façade. The pattern was chosen due to its historical design. The mural is proposed to be in place for 30 days and then the façade will be painted back to its original color. Staff recommends that the scale be reduced significantly.

**Mr. Jarles** stated that as required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners and the neighborhood association within 200 feet of the subject property. No comments were received.

**Mr. Jarles** reported that staff recommends approval for a temporary mural to be installed at 12 West State Street with the following conditions because otherwise the temporary mural meets the Historic Site and Monument Commission Master Plan and Guidelines:

1. Reduce the scale of the mural significantly;
2. Provide staff with funding source.

**Mr. Monroe** asked staff why did they recommend that the scale be reduced.

**Mr. Jarles** answered that the Historic Sites & Monument Commission's guidelines state that whatever is painted that it not distract from the character defining features, He explained that since the mural will be painted on the front of the building facing the street, the scale of the design needs to be reduced.

**Mr. Mannion** asked why the mural is requested to be up for only 30 days.

**Mr. Jarles** stated that this is a question that the petitioner will be able to answer when making her presentation to the Commission. But this request was for a temporary 30-day mural.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Wessling** came forward and gave the background data on the artist, Ms. Vanessa Platadis. Ms. Platadis has produced numerous works of art within the public area. Ms. Wessling stated that she talked with the owner of 12 West State Street and he approved for the mural to be painted on his building. The financing is funded by W Projects LLC. She entertained questions from the Commission.

**Ms. Blakely** stated that the project is beautiful and she likes it. She asked, however, if the project would interfere with the historic designation, etc.

**Ms. Wessling** answered that because the stucco is already painted it will not damage any historical materials if painted. The artist will use spray paint. The building will be returned to its original color 30 days after the

mural is painted. This is a temporary mural.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

The consensus of the discussion was that the members of the Commission fully supported a reduced scale design that the petitioner presented to the Commission at the meeting. Commission member Lisa D. Watson expressed concern about the material proposed for use in creating the mural (spray paint), and expressed her desire for the artist to consider the utilization of a more environmentally friendly alternative to spray paint; the other members of the Commission shared the concern, but felt it was not within their purview to tell the artist which medium was appropriate for this specific piece of art. However, because of public safety, they were hopeful that the artist would consider choosing a different paint.

**Motion**

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve a temporary mural, utilizing the reduced design, to be installed at 12 West State Street for 30 days with the additional recommendation that the artist consider taking public safety into account and consider choosing a different paint, because otherwise the temporary mural meets the Historic Site and Monument Commission Master Plan and Guidelines.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Lisa D. Watson

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

**IV. Other Business**

**4. 2020 HSMC Officers Election**

The Nominating Committee recommended the following Commission members as officers for the HSMC for 2020: **Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair, Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chair, and Lisa D. Watson, Secretary.**

**Motion**

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Sites & Monument Commission does hereby approve the officers for 2020.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Alicia Blakely

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Abstain
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Alicia Blakely	- Aye
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Abstain

5. Presentation of 2020 MPC Historic Preservation Calendar

📎 [Final 2020 MPC-HP Calendar.pdf](#)

**Ms. Michalak** presented the Historic 2020 Calendar to the Commission. She explained that the 2020 "Post War Savannah" calendar was developed to promote awareness of our diverse building typologies here in Chatham County - Savannah. The MPC's goal is to spread awareness of our numerous historic and cultural resources. Chatham county - Savannah is fortunate to have over 8,000 documented historic and cultural resources and over 20 National Register Historic Districts. The resources provide a necessary contribution to the Character of our historic districts and neighborhoods.

**Ms. Michalak** stated that the photographs and design layout were done by Ms. Sandy Michel, MPC Historic Preservation and Development Services Planner [with the exception of historic photographs and maps. To note images not created by MPC staff, look for the dashed borders around the images]. The creative concept was done by Mr. Jarles, MPC Cultural Resource Planner.

**Ms. Michalak** said a "special thank you" goes to Mr. Bob Ciucevich for his contribution to the calendar.

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**Mr. Monroe** reported that the first community meeting for the Memorial for Community Justice was held on November 19, 2019 He is really not involved in this organization. He said another meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2020 at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum at 6:00 p.m.

**Mr. Monroe** said that Ms Pat Gunn was in attendance and spoke on the lack of monuments and historical markers memorializing African-Americans. Ms. Gunn is trying to do some projects to this end.

**Mr. Monroe** stated that the final public art lecture for 2019 will be held on December 12 at the Cultural Arts Center at 6:00 p.m.

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**Ms. Blakely** stated that on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at the Johnny Mercer Theatre the Savannah City Council's inauguration will be held at 7:00 p.m. She invited all to attend.

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**Dr. Henry** invited all to attend a social gathering at his home on Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. He thanked the staff for all the hard work they do.

## V. Adjournment

### 6. Adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Dr. Henry adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Leah G. Michalak, Director  
Historic Preservation

LGM:mem

***The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.***